A

Friendly LETTER

To Such as have

Voices in Election of Members

To Serve in

PARLIAMENT.

17. Oct. 1695

My Dear Countrymen,

YOU have a Good King, willing to follow the Advice of his Great Councils, and for that end, desires frequent Parliaments, which give you the Happy Opportunities of making your King, your selves, and your Fellow-subjects Comfortable: Your Forefathers (that made Laws for the due Election of Members to Serve in Parliament, and settled Wages to be duly paid them) foresaw, or had experienced, That few, or none, will take so great Trust and Trouble upon them, at their own Cost and Charge; and strugling about Elections, Feasting and Treating Extravagantly, and Courting Electors for their Voices, began about the Time when the Rebellion was hatching, which broke out in 1641. wherefore King *Charles* the First, in a Book supposed to be written by him in his Troubles, saith, *We had reason, when he saw it, to fear the sad Consequences thereof, ever since Men of good Estates and Principles, have been forced to spend High, and Contract great Debts, in Opposition to Persons of Ill Designs.* And making Parties to be Elected, hath raised such Feuds and Differences between Neighbours and near Relations, that Hospitality, and indeed Brotherly Love and Charity, is at a low Ebb. You have reason to suspect all that Court you for your Voices, spend their Estates in hopes to pay themselves at the Nations Cost; and you may rest assured, that such as get or improve their Estates by Oppression and Wrong, will not Redress, but make Grievances: You know that Butchers are not allowed to be of Juries, in Cases of Life and Death; and in Cases between Party and Party, Judges and Juries are to be indifferent: And will you make Choice of Lawyers, Attorneys and Solicitors, or any that feed on the Sores of your Brethren, to be of the Grand Inquest, who are Judges to Redress, as well as Juries to Present your Grievances? Have you not seen what Disturbance one or two of a Jury have given the rest? And what Injustice and Oppression pack'd Juries have been guilty of? I could weep to see any Feast and Treat the Rich, and send the Poor Empty away: And how backward too many are to do Brotherly Offices for any of different Opinions, in Points of Religious Worship, though the good *Samaritan* stood not upon such Nicetie; yet I hope every City, County and Burrough may find such to Represent them, as have plentiful Estates, and Husband the same well, and do all the good Offices they can, to promote Brotherly Love among their Neighbours, and restrain not their Charity from the Poor of different Perswasions; and would you Chuse such of Liberal Estates, Sweet Dispositions, and Universal Charity, they by God's Blessing, would soon settle things upon the best and surest Foundations, whereby Peace and Happiness, Truth and Justice, Religion and Piety, would be Established among us.

Gentlemen,

The Trust reposed in you, and that you repose in such as you Elect, is a Talent, whereof a strict Accompt will be required at the Last Great and General Audit; therefore as you Tender the Honour, Wealth and Safety of your King, your Selves, and your Fellow-subjects, suffer not the Fumes of Strong Drink, and Tobacco, and Garnished Dishes, to make you Sell your Selves, and your Posterity, as your Grandame *Eve*, and Grandfire *Adam* did, for a Golden Coloured Apple; and as *Esau* Sold his Birthright for a Mess of Pottage; but like Men of Understanding, let your Zeal be according to Knowledge, for the Election of your Representatives: And let your Meetings be without Heat or Passion, that the Persons Out-voted may approve your Choice; or at least, have no Just Cause to Condemn it: And that Present, and After-ages, may Applaud your Discretion, is the Hearty Desire of

Philanglus.

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